

Application No. 10/595,342
Amendment Dated March 8, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 7, 2010

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 7, 2010 has been carefully considered by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks that follow.

Specification

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The claims are hereby amended, thus rendering the objection to the specification moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The claims have been amended, including cancellation of claim 29. As such, the objection to the drawings is rendered moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 29 has been objected to because of informalities. Claim 29 is hereby cancelled, thus rendering the objection moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 29 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph. Claim 29 is hereby cancelled, thus rendering the rejections thereof moot. Withdrawal of the rejections under §112 is appropriate and requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harvey EPO Patent Application No. 0491400. Claims 32, 33 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey '400 in view of Faulkner U.S. Patent No. 5,474,254. Claims 34-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey '400 in view of Faulkner '254 and further in view of Salloum U.S. Patent No.

5,004,179. Claim 38 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey '400 in view of Dobson U.S. Patent No. 819,866. Claim 39 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey '400 in view of Campbell U.S. Patent No. 3,940,085.

Claim 29 is cancelled, thus rendering the rejections thereof moot. New claims 41-56 are added, with claims 41 and 44 being independent.

Claim 41

Claim 41 is added to replace now cancelled claim 29. Claim 41 recites:

A modular reel device configured to support a coilable body, the modular reel device comprising:

a pair of opposing end flanges, each opposing end flange comprising a flange sector and a flange segment that is separably connected to the flange sector; and

a plurality of cylindrical segments;

wherein the pair of opposing end flanges are separably connectable to a first number of cylindrical segments from the plurality that are separably connected together in series to form an inner cylindrical center portion; and

wherein the pair of opposing end flanges are separably connectable to a second, larger number of cylindrical segments from the plurality that are separably connected together in series to form an outer cylindrical center portion having a larger diameter than the inner cylindrical center portion.

Harvey '400 does not disclose the claimed *pair of opposing end flanges*. Specifically, Harvey '400 does not disclose a pair of opposing end flanges that are *separably connectable to a first number of cylindrical segments from the plurality that are separably connected together in series to form an inner cylindrical center portion; and...separably connectable to a second, larger number of cylindrical segments from the plurality that are separably connected together in series to form an outer cylindrical center portion having a larger diameter than the inner cylindrical center portion*. Instead, Harvey '400 teaches end flanges 11, 12 that are indirectly connectable to four curved metal panels that slide into grooves 32 of support members 18 to form a desired hub diameter. When a smaller diameter hub is desired, the curved metal panels are of a smaller 90-degree variety (i.e. reference number 24). When a larger hub diameter is desired, the panels are of a larger 90-degree variety (i.e. reference

number 23). In both examples, the same number of panels (i.e. four) is utilized to form the hub. This is directly contrary to claim 42, which recites the *inner cylindrical center portion* and *outer cylindrical center portion* formed of a *larger number of cylindrical segments from the plurality*.

None of the remaining references disclose the claimed combination.

Withdrawal of the rejections under Section 102 and Section 103 is thus appropriate and requested.

Claim 42

Claim 42 recites that *each cylinder segment in the plurality has a substantially similar shape and substantially similar size*. Again, this is not disclosed by Harvey '400, which requires alternative usage of larger 90-degree curved metal panels 23 and smaller 90-degree curved metal panels 24 to construct hubs of differing diameters.

The remaining references do not disclose opposing end flanges separably connectable to inner cylindrical center portions having different diameters. As such, the remaining references also do not disclose the combination of claim 42. Claim 42 is thus believed allowable both for the reasons stated above regarding claim 41 and for the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Claim 43

Claim 43 recites that *each cylinder segment in the plurality is directly connectable to the pair of opposing end flanges*. This aspect is also not disclosed by Harvey '400, which requires connection of the curved metal panels 23, 24 to elongated support members 18. This is disadvantageous as heavy spoolable members place an unacceptable contact force on the support members 18 in cases wherein the metal panels 23, 24 are unable to carry the appreciable load. The direct connection in the combination of claim 43 allows the load to be distributed over the plurality of segments that form the inner or outer cylindrical center portion.

The remaining references do not disclose the combination of claim 41 wherein each cylinder segment in the plurality is directly connectable to the pair of opposing end flanges. Claim 43 is thus allowable for the reasons stated above regarding claim 41 and for the detailed subject matter recited therein.

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Claims 30-40

Claims 30-40 depend directly or indirectly from claim 41 and are thus believed allowable for the reasons stated above regarding claim 41 and for the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Claim 44

Claim 44 is comparable to claim 41 and further recites that the pair of opposing end flanges are *separably and directly connectable to* the claimed first and second numbers of cylindrical segments. Claim 44 is thus believed allowable for both the reasons stated above regarding claim 41, and the reasons stated above regarding claim 43. Such action is appropriate and requested.

Claims 45-56

Claims 45-56 depend directly or indirectly from claim 44 and are thus believed allowable for the reasons stated above and for the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Conclusion

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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